

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 VALLET 01377 241254Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CCO-00 OTPE-00 FCC-01 OC-05 COME-00 BIB-01

ACDA-05 NASA-01 OES-03 TRSE-00 IGA-01 /098 W

----- 005796

R 241000Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6551

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VALLETTA 1377

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, EAID, MT, IT

SUBJECT: GOM INAUGURATES NEW TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES

REF: (A) VALLETTA 1339; (B) VALLETTA 1320;

(C) VALLETTA A-36; (D) VALLETTA 0580

1. ON NOVEMBER 19, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT WISTIN ABELA INAUGURATED AN AUTOMATIC INTERNATIONAL TELEX EXCHANGE AND A TELEPHONE MULTIPLEX FOR THE MALTA-POZZALLO (SICILY) SUBMARINE CABLE. THE TELEX EXCHANGE, WHICH HAS A CAPACITY OF 300 SUBSCRIBERS, IS THE FIRST AUTOMATIC EXCHANGE OF ITS KIND IN MALTA, AND IT HAS LONG BEEN AWAITED BY THE MALTESE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. THE TOTAL COST OF THE EXCHANGE AND RELATED EQUIPMENT IS AROUND LM400,000. THE TELEPHONE MULTIPLEX, COSTING ABOUT KM25,000, WILL INCREASE THE AVAILABLE NUMBER OF CHANNELS FROM 36 TO 48 AND HELP RELIEVE THE PRESENT CONGESTION IN MALTA'S OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES. MINISTER ABELA ANNOUNCED THAT SOON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 VALLET 01377 241254Z

THE INSTALLATION AT NAXXAR OF A MICRO-WAVE LINK

BETWEEN MALTA AND ITALY WOULD IMPROVE COMMUNICATION FACILITIES STILL FURTHER.

2. THESE PROJECTS ARE PART OF THE GOM'S LONG STANDING PROGRAM TO IMPROVE BOTH MALTA'S DOMESTIC TELEPHONE SYSTEM AND ITS OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS. THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IS COOPERATING WITH THE GOM IN THIS TASK, PROVIDING FUNDS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UNDER A TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT SIGNED IN MAY 1974, AND AUGMENTED IN DECEMBER 1974. THE TOTAL ITALIAN CONTRIBUTION IS OVER 895 MILLION ITALIAN LIRA (REF C).

3. IN VIEW OF THE ITALIAN INVOLVEMENT, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE FIRST MESSAGE OVER THE NEW TELEX EXCHANGE WENT FROM MINISTER ABELA TO THE ITALIAN MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATION, SENATOR GIULIO ORLANDO. IN THIS MESSAGE, MINISTER ABELA EXPRESSED THE GOM'S APPRECIATION FOR THE COOPERATION OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IN IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. REPLYING, SENATOR GIULIO ALSO PRAISED THE IMPROVEMENT, ADDING THAT ITALY WOULD "FOLLOW WITH THE UTMOST INVOLVEMENT THE EXPANSION OF FACILITIES"

4. BEGIN LOU COMMENT: THE ITALIANS HAVE BEEN THE MOST ACTIVE OF MALTA'S MANY BENEFACTORS IN RECENT YEARS, AN INVOLVEMENT WHICH SEEMS DESTINED TO CONTINUE. EVEN THE HARD-TO-SATISFY MINTOFF MAY SOON PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGE SUCH ITALIAN ASSISTANCE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MINTOFF PLANS TO HONOR ITALIAN PRESIDENT LEONE DURING THE LATTER'S STATE VISIT TO MALTA IN EARLY DECEMBER (REF B) BY RECOMMENDING HIS APPOINTMENT AS THE FIRST MEMBER OF THE MALTESE SOCIETY OF HONOR, AN OFFICIAL SOCIETY NEWLY CREATE SINCE MALTA BECAME A REPUBLIC IN 1974 TO HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE RENDERED DISTINGUISHED SERVICES TO THE COUNTRY OR HAVE COMMITTED ACTS OF EXCEPTIONAL BRAVERY (REF D). WHEN ASKED WHY LEONE (AND NOT QADHAFI) IS TO BE THE FIRST FOREIGN LEADER TO BE SO HONORED, A GOM FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL PRIVATELY ACKNOWLEDGED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 VALLET 01377 241254Z

AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT ITALY'S ASSISTANCE TO MALTA HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY MORE SUBSTANTIAL THAN LIBYA'S. END LOU. SMITH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELECOMMUNICATION, TELEPHONE SYSTEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VALLET01377
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750408-0873
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751117/aaaaaozu.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 VALLETTA 1339, 75 VALLETTA 1320
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOM INAUGURATES NEW TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES
TAGS: ETEL, EAID, MT, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006